

Testimony of

Terri Smith

Director, Douglas County Emergency Management and

President, Kansas Emergency Management Association

Before the Kansas Senate

Standing Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, February 6, 2012

Chairman McGinn, Vice Chair Vratil, ranking member Kelly, and members of the Committee – I would like to thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor Brownback’s proposal establishing a State disaster reimbursement fund as outlined in SB 336.

My name is Teri Smith, and I have served as the Director of Emergency Management for Douglas County, Kansas for the past five years. I have a total of 17 years of experience in the field, and I am currently serving as the President of the Kansas Emergency Management Association (KEMA).

KEMA represents the professional Emergency Management community within Kansas, including emergency management directors and other professionals from 92 of the 105 counties in Kansas. I am providing my comments on behalf of KEMA today.

The reasons for creating a State disaster reimbursement fund are numerous and can be easily identified by looking over our recent history of disasters here in Kansas. Since January 1, 2006, Kansas has incurred nearly \$109 Million in costs from 17 natural disasters. These events ranged from winter storms to flooding to tornadoes. They have resulted in the loss of life, significant damage to property, and damage to our economy.

KEMA is supportive of SB 336 as it would provide funds pre and post-disaster to:

- Protect life and property
- Rebuild our local economy
- Restore essential services and;
- Provide financial support to local governments

Thank you for considering this request. I would be happy to stand for questions at this time.

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For additional information please contact:

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The Kansas Emergency Management Association (KEMA) represents its members who make up the professional Emergency Management community of Kansas.

For more information, see: <http://www.kema.org>.